5.41—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are 18 years of age or older, sign a Smart Core Waiver Form to not participate. While Smart Core is the default option, both a Smart Core Informed Consent Form and a Smart Core Waiver Form will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh grade, or when a 7-12 grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed form in the student’s permanent record. This policy is to be included in the student handbook for grade 6-12 and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the requirements of their IEP (when applicable) to be eligible for graduation. The signed Informed Consent Form shall be attached to the student’s permanent transcript. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the time they are required to sign the consent forms.

While there are similarities between the two curriculums, following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. Students initially choosing the Core curriculum may subsequently change to the Smart Core curriculum providing they would be able to complete the required course of study by the end of their senior year. Students wishing to change their choice of curriculums must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing.

This policy, the Smart Core curriculum, and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents at least every other year to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district’s students. The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to Smart Core and the district’s graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding of each. This may be accomplished through any or all of the following means.

- Inclusion in the student handbook of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements;
- Discussion of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements at the school’s annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter;
- Discussions held by the school’s counselors with students and their parents; and/or
- Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district’s students.

The first year of this policy’s implementation all employees required to be licensed as a condition of their employment shall receive training regarding this policy so that they will be able to help successfully implement it. In subsequent years, administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition
of their employment, regarding this policy. The district’s annual professional
development shall include the training required by this paragraph.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (For the graduating class of 2014 and beyond)**

The number of units students must earn in grades nine through twelve (9-12) to be
eligible for high school graduation are to be earned from the following categories. A
minimum of 22 units is required for graduation for student participating in either the
Smart Core or Core curriculum. There are some distinctions made between Smart Core
units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to
Smart Core requirements. Fayetteville School District requires 24 units for graduation.

All students required to take an end of course (EOC) assessment who do not meet the
requisite scale score must participate in remediation activities in order to receive
academic credit on the transcript for the course related to the particular EOC assessment.

**SMART CORE: Sixteen (16) units**

English: four (4) units (years) – one in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Mathematics: four (4) units (years) (all students under Smart Core must take a
mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.)
- Algebra I or First Part and Second Part (Grades 7-8 or 8-9)
- Geometry or First Part and Second Part (Grades 8-9 or 9-10)
- Algebra II
- Fourth Math--Choice of: Advanced Topics and Modeling in Mathematics,
  Algebra III, Calculus, Linear Systems and Statistics, Mathematical Applications
  and Algorithms, Pre-Calculus, or an Advanced Placement mathematics, and
  concurrent credit course beyond Algebra II.

Natural Science: three (3) units (years) with lab experience
- Biology – 1 unit
  Two (2) units from the following three (3) options
- Physical Science
- Chemistry
- Physics or Principles of Technology I & II or PIC Physics

Social Studies: three (3) units (years)
- Civics or Civics/American Government-1/2 unit, (1/2 year)
- World History -1 unit, (1 year)
- U.S. History -1 unit, (1 year)

Physical Education: one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)
**Note:** While one-half (1/2) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may
be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.
Oral Communications: one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

Economics: one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

Health and Safety: one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

Fine Arts: one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

**CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student’s contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

The Smart Core and career focus units must total at least twenty-two (22) units to graduate. In addition to the 22 units required for graduation by the Arkansas Department of Education, the district requires an additional 2 units to graduate for a total of 24 units.

**CORE: - Sixteen (16) units**

English: four (4) units (years) – one in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Mathematics: four (4) units (years)
- Algebra or its equivalent* - 1 unit
- Geometry or its equivalent* - 1 unit
- All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.
- (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable) *A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

Science: three (3) units (years)
- at least one (1) unit of biology
- one (1) unit of a physical science

Social Studies: three (3) units (years)
- Civics, one-half (1/2) unit
- World history, one (1) unit
- U.S. history, one (1) unit

Physical Education: one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

**Note:** While one-half (1/2) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.
Oral Communications: one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

Health and Safety: one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

Economics: one-half unit (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

Fine Arts: one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

**CAREER FOCUS: -Six (6) units**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student’s contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

The Core and career focus units must total at least twenty-two (22) units to graduate. In addition to the 22 units required for graduation by the Arkansas Department of Education, the district requires an additional 2 units to graduate for a total of 24 units.

Legal References:
- Standards of Accreditation 9.03 – 9.03.1.9, 14.03.1 – 14.03.3
- ADE Guidelines for the Development of Smart Core Curriculum Policy
- Smart Core Informed Consent Form Beginning 2014
- Smart Core Waiver Form Beginning 2014

Date Adopted: 11-18-04
Revised: 1-24-08
Revised: 6-23-11
Revised: 6-27-13